

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:H:ASWIFT:LGR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF: TIMOR VISIT

1. INDONESIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR PANE CALLED AMBASSADOR ROESMIN NURJADIN LAST NIGHT IN LOS ANGELES TO REPORT THAT JOHN SALZBERG (AIDE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER) PLANS TO TRAVEL WITH CODEL PARTY LED BY MRS. MEYNER TO EAST TIMOR AT SUGGESTION OF CONGRESSMAN WOLFF.

2. ACCORDING TO PANE, ROESMIN REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE SUGGESTION THAT SALZBERG TRAVEL TO EAST TIMOR. HE INDICATED THAT INVITATION WAS TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER, NOT SALZBERG, AND THAT WHILE GOI WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SALZBERG ACCOMPANYING FRASER TO TIMOR, THE GOI WOULD NOT APPROVE SALZBERG ALONE JOINING GROUP LED BY CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER. PANE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE EYES OF JAKARTA, SALZBERG WAS A TOTALLY BIASED, UNFRIENDLY CRITIC OF INDONESIA.

3. WE BELIEVE DECISION BY GOI NOT TO LET SALZBERG VISIT INDONESIA OR TIMOR COULD CAUSE SERIOUS CONGRESSIONAL
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PROBLEMS. JOHN SALZBERG WOULD BE REPRESENTING FRASER ON THIS TRIP. REFUSAL TO LET SALZBERG JOIN CODEL PARTY TO TIMOR WOULD BE TAKEN BADLY BY FRASER. IT WILL ALSO PUT WOLFF, WHO HAS TAKEN A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE

TIMOR PROBLEM, IN AN AWKWARD POSITION AND MIGHT PUSH HIM TO A MORE NEGATIVE STANCE ON INDONESIA AND ITS ASSISTANCE

REQUESTS BECAUSE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS HEAD OF THE CODEL. MOREOVER SUCH AN ADVERSE DECISION BY GOI ON SALZBERG WILL PUT MRS. MEYNER IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BECAUSE OF HER CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO FRASER. IT MIGHT WELL REVERSE HER DECISION TO VISIT TIMOR AND CAUSE HER TO JOIN FRASER AS SEVERE CRITIC.

4. WE HAVE COME THROUGH THE FRASER/WOLFF HEARINGS ON ASSISTANCE FOR INDONESIA AND THE EAST TIMOR PROBLEM IN FAIRLY GOOD SHAPE SO FAR. AN INCIDENT OVER SALZBERG, HOWEVER, WILL GIVE INDONESIA'S DETRACTORS CONSIDERABLE AMMUNITION, AND MAY CONVINCE IMPORTANT MEMBERS THAT INDONESIA HAS SOMETHING SERIOUS TO HIDE. IT CAN ALSO PLACE INDONESIA'S SUPPORTERS IN A POSITION WHERE THEY WILL NOT FEEL ABLE TO DEFEND IT.

5. NEITHER AMBASSADOR ROESMIN NOR PANE CAN BE REACHED TODAY SINCE FORMER IS EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON AND LATTER IS IN NEW YORK. THE DEPT HAS, HOWEVER, REQUESTED A MEETING TOMORROW BETWEEN OAKLEY AND AMBASSADOR ROESMIN TO DISCUSS VISIT BY CODEL WOLFF, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE SALZBERG PROBLEM. WE INTEND AT THAT TIME TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT, OF COURSE, IT IS UP TO THE GOI TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO PERMIT SALZBERG TO TRAVEL WITH MRS. MEYNER. IN MAKING ITS DECISION, HOWEVER, WE HOPE GOI WILL CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS MENTIONED ABOVE. WE WILL ALSO NOTE THAT WE BELIEVE A VISIT BY MRS. MEYNER TO TIMOR COULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON CONGRESS AND U.S. PUBLIC AND IT WAS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT REASON THAT HOLBROOKE PERSONALLY CALLED WOLFF AND MEYNER TO OVERCOME WHAT WE SENSED WAS RELUCTANCE BY CODEL TO VISIT TIMOR AT INVITATION OF GOI.

6. WE THINK THAT BOTH MRS. MEYNER AND CONGRESSMAN WOLFF WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO ASSURE THAT SALZBERG CAUSES THE INDONESIANS NO EMBARRASSMENT WHILE ON THE TRIP. WE EXPECT MRS. MEYNER WILL ACT AS A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON SALZBERG, WHO HOPES TO TALK TO VARIOUS TIMORESE (WHOSE NAMES HE HAS BEEN GIVEN) WITHOUT GOI REP PRESENT. WE WOULD HOPE THAT COMPROMISES CAN BE STRUCK BETWEEN THE CODEL AND THE INDONESIANS WHICH WOULD PERMIT MRS. MEYNER AND STAFFERS SUFFICIENT FREEDOM OF ACTION SO THEY WILL NOT BE CHARGED WITH HAVING BEEN GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR, BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOT UNDULY ALARM THE INDONESIANS.

7. UNLESS EMBASSY HAS OBJECTION, WE BELIEVE A PARALLEL APPROACH IN JAKARTA TO MAKE THE SAME POINTS WOULD BE VERY

USEFUL. IF YOU CAN OBTAIN EVEN A PRELIMINARY REACTION
FROM GOI ON SALZBERG, THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PREPARING
FOR THE OAKLEY-ROESMIN FRIDAY AM MEETING.
CHRISTOPHER

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